



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/482,684	01/14/2000	Takenori Idehara	325772014000	7340

7590 10/06/2006
Barry E. Bretschneider
Morrison & Foerster LLP
1650 Tysons Blvd.
Suite 300
McLean, VA 22102

EXAMINER

BRINICH, STEPHEN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2625	

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/482,684

Applicant(s)

IDEHARA, TAKENORI

Examiner

Stephen M. Brinich

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 14-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 14-16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/31/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwabuchi (JP 10-044524).

Re claims 1-3 & 5, Iwabuchi discloses (Figures 4-5, paragraphs 0068-0076) a method and means of processing image data. The system receives first image data (page description language data input via IF 301; paragraph 0068) and develops it into second image data via image generating section 302 (bitmap data; paragraph 0069). The result is compressed into third image data (paragraph 0074), and a comparison is made to determine whether this compression increases the original data amount (paragraph 0075) and to selectively skip compression in the case where compression increases the data amount (thus, the smaller of the original data or the compressed data is obtained). The final image data (the smaller of the original data or the compressed data) is stored in a memory 305 (paragraph 0071).

Art Unit: 2625

Re claim 4, in any case in which the Iwabuchi system provides its output to a printer (described as a standard configuration, Figure 1 and paragraphs 0001 & 0100) and is used to print more than one copy of a document (as in the situation described in paragraphs 0007 & 0052-0054), each will be printed seriatim using the stored data generated by the above described arrangement.

Re claim 6, some type of data connection means is inherently required to transmit image data to an external printer (paragraph 0001). This output to this data connection means is readable upon the (not further described) recited "transmitter", and the data connection means itself is readable upon the (not further described) recited "network".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2625

4. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwabuchi in view of Applicant's Background Prior Art.

As described above, Iwabuchi discloses (Figures 4-5, paragraphs 0068-0076) a means of processing image data. The system receives first image data (page description language data input via IF 301; paragraph 0068) and develops it into second image data via image generating section 302 (bitmap data; paragraph 0069). The result is compressed into third image data (paragraph 0074), and a comparison is made to determine whether this compression increases the original data amount (paragraph 0075) and to selectively skip compression in the case where compression increases the data amount (thus, the smaller of the original data or the compressed data is obtained). The final image data (the smaller of the original data or the compressed data) is stored in a memory 305 (paragraph 0071).

Also as described above, some type of data connection means is inherently required to transmit image data to an external printer (paragraph 0001). This output to this data connection means is readable upon the (not further described) recited "transmitter", and the data connection means itself is readable upon the (not further described) recited "network".

Art Unit: 2625

Iwabuchi does not disclose expressly a detector for detecting problems during printing through a network and a transmitter for transmitting the stored image data when such a problem is detected.

Applicant's Background Prior Art discloses (page 5, lines 7-13) a response to a malfunction (which must inherently be detected in order for such a response to occur) while printing over a network. This response includes transferring (i.e. transmitting) the stored image data to a printer different from the malfunctioning one.

Iwabuchi and Applicant's Background Prior Art are combinable because they are from the field of image data processing for printer output.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the malfunction response of Applicant's Background Prior Art in conjunction with the Iwabuchi printer system.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to enable a print job to continue after a malfunction.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Iwabuchi with Applicant's Background Prior Art to obtain the invention as specified in claim 7.

Art Unit: 2625

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 14-16 are allowed.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Re claims 14 & 16, the art of record does not teach or suggest the recited first comparator for comparing the development time for developing the first image data into the second image data with the printing time for printing the second image data and the recited second comparator for comparing the volume of the first (initial) and third (final) image data in conjunction with the recited image processing pipeline.

Re claim 15, the art of record does not teach or suggest the recited comparator for comparing a time required for developing the recited first image data of the current page and a time required for printing using the recited second image data of the two previous pages in conjunction with the recited image processing pipeline.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning the contents of this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen M. Brinich at 571-272-7430.

Any inquiry relating to the status of this application or proceeding or any inquiry of a general nature concerning

Art Unit: 2625

application processing should be directed to the Tech Center 2600 Customer Service center at 571-272-2600 or to the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199 or 571-272-1000.


The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays 8:00-5:30, alternate Fridays off.

The examiner's unit designation has been changed from "Art Unit 2624" to "Technology Division 2625" (as of March 20, 2006).

If attempts to contact the examiner and the Customer Service Center are unsuccessful, supervisor David Moore can be contacted at 571-272-7437.

Faxes pertaining to this application should be directed to the Tech Center 2600 official fax number, which is 571-273-8300 (as of July 15, 2005).

Hand-carried correspondence may be delivered to the Customer Service Window, located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.


Stephen M Brinich
Examiner
Technology Division 2625

smb
September 22, 2006